



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/643,232

08/18/2003

Jens Garner

442-194

3305

7590 05/30/2007
Charles R. Hoffmann
HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP.
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791

EXAMINER

RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/643,232

Applicant(s)

GARNER ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Rutland-Wallis

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-7 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoll (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,338) in view of Stoll et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,234,033)

With respect to claim 1, 12 and 18-19 Stoll teaches a pneumatic arrangement comprising: a plurality of servicing modules (items 10, 11 and 13) for the preparation of compressed air, which are arranged on a common bus system (item 42 bus line), and a control module (item 10 monitoring module controls and monitors) connected with the bus system (42) for the performance of control for the servicing modules (10, 11 and 13), wherein a valve arrangement (item 20, 50 and 51 for example valves associated with each module to perform their respective function) including a plurality of valves is

Art Unit: 2836

also connected with the common bus system (42), the control module (10) being also designed for the implementation of control functions (see control valve 55 col. 6 lines 25-35) for the valves of the valve arrangement, the control module (10), the servicing modules and the valve arrangement being physically mounted to the common bus system (42 see Fig. 2, also see col. 4 lines 38-56 Stoll describes physically mounting and connecting the modules together) thereby forming a unitary (see describes the system as a compressed air servicing unit, see abstract) structure constituting constitutes a subassembly. Stoll does not teach the valves are not part of and do not form part of the servicing modules. Stoll 033 teaches a plurality of valve modules (item 10 plugged in rows arranged perpendicular to the plane of Fig. 1 col. 5 lines 55-60) connected to a common manifold and ducts for receiving pressurized fluids. Stoll 033 teaches valve module containing a plurality of valves are not positioned within and do not form part of the servicing modules. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Stoll to utilize a separate valve module and plurality of valves, physically mounted to the common bus to constitute a subassembly in order to ease the addition of new module (Stoll 033 col. 1 lines 45-50) or ease repairs and maintenance (col. 2 lines 5-10 Stoll 033).

With respect to claim 2 Stoll teaches the valves and the servicing modules are arranged in a row on the common bus system (Fig. 3 or 4).

With respect to claim 3 Stoll teaches the bus system is designed in the form of a bus conductor bar (item 42 bus line bar), which preferably comprises individual bar

elements able to be plugged or attached together, the modules and the valve arrangement being able to be arranged in a row (see fig. 1) with the bus conductor bar.

With respect to claim 4 Stoll teaches wherein the control module is integrated in one of the servicing modules or is arranged as a separate module on the bus system or on the valve arrangement (see arrangement Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 5 Stoll teaches the control module is arranged between the valve arrangement and the servicing modules (see arrangement Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 6 Stoll teaches an electrical and/or pneumatic adapter module is arranged between the valve arrangement and the servicing modules on the bus system.

With respect to claim 7 Stoll teaches the control module possesses a field bus interface for an external bus system (column 5 Stoll teaches the addition of other modules to the bus).

With respect to claim 9 Stoll teaches the servicing modules are partly provided with sensors (the control module may control and monitor the pressure column 5 lines 5-13), more particularly with pressure sensors, whose output signals can be transmitted by way of the bus system to the control module.

With respect to claim 10 Stoll teaches the control module is provided with a monitoring means for the valve arrangement and the servicing modules, such means being more especially adapted to be effective for more than one system.

With respect to claim 11 Stoll teaches comprising optical indicating means (display), such means serving more especially for diagnostic messages.

With respect to claims 13-14 and 17 Stoll teaches the common bus system includes a bus conductor bar (41), and the plurality of servicing modules, the valve arrangement, and the control module are mechanically and juxtaposed manner (42 see Fig. 2, also see col. 4 lines 38-56 Stoll describes mechanically mounting and connecting the modules together) connected to the bus bar.

With respect to claim 15 Stoll teaches the plurality of servicing modules includes a compressed air filter and a pressure regulator (see abstract).

With respect to claim 16 Stoll teaches the common bus system has a linear extent (Fig. 2), and the control module, the servicing modules and the valve arrangement are secured to the common bus system along its linear extent.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoll (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,338) in view of Stoll et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,234,033) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nagai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,664) Stoll teaches a display (item 24) is integrated in the control module or as a separate component. Stoll as modified above does not teach the use of wireless communication system. Nagai teaches pneumatic control system where an interface system between a control and an outside apparatus is done through wireless communication. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Stoll to use wireless transmission as a means to interface outside control module in order to have a remote control terminal.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

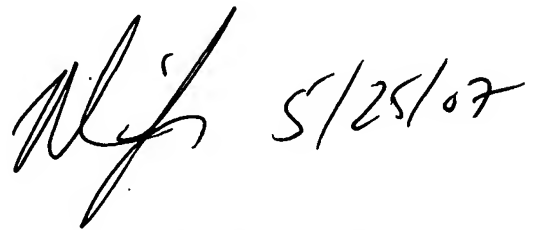
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MRW

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "5/25/07". The signature is stylized and appears to be "M. Sherry".

MICHAEL SHERRY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800